

March, 1999



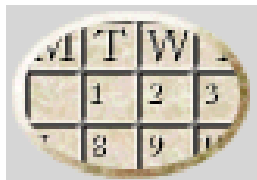
Wastewater News

Internet Address: <http://www.epa.gov/owm>

Working towards Clean Water



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UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

What is happening in March?

Date	Activity	Location	Contact
3/3-5/99	RCAP National Training Conference, "Celebrating Rural America" will be held at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. Conference activities will include seminars, workshops and discussions regarding small and very small water and wastewater treatment systems and projects.	Baltimore, MD	Maria Campbell (202) 260-5815
3/8-3/12	Toxic Substances Hydrology Meeting - The goal of the 7 th Annual Toxic Substances Hydrology (Toxics) Program Technical Meeting. The meeting is designed to provide unbiased earth science information on the behavior of toxic substances in hydrologic environments. The three major themes which will be covered are: Hard Rock Mining, Contamination of Hydrologic Systems and Related Ecosystems, and Subsurface Contamination from Point Sources will be presented.	Charleston, SC	Jennifer Sachar (202) 260-1389
3/22-26	NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course	San Francisco, CA	Jennifer Sachar (202) 260-1389

Upcoming Events

Biosolids

National Meeting: OWM is planning a national meeting for Headquarters, Regional, and State personnel involved in all aspects of the biosolids program, including program management and technical support, permitting, compliance, and enforcement. The agenda is currently being developed. The proposed meeting location is the Washington, D.C. area, and the proposed time frame is June-July 1999. OWM expects to be able to cover expenses for lodging and meals (but not

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travel) for one representative from each State and Region. Additional State/Regional representatives may attend at their own expense. For additional information, contact Ed Gross on (202) 260-7370.

Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

OWM, in cooperation with Region 5 and the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission, is co-sponsoring a National Conference on "Tools for Urban Water Resource Management and Protection" in Chicago, February 7 - 10, 2000. A call for papers is open until March 1. The conference will provide participants with practical, applied information on the most effective tools and technology for meeting NPDES permit requirements, and will emphasize the Phase II program's six minimum measures. For more information, see http://www.nipco.org.il.us/water_tools_2000.htm or contact John Kosco on (202) 260-6385.

National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC)

National Trainers Conference on Decentralized Wastewater Systems Cosponsored by National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities NETCSC). NETCSC and the national Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment will cosponsor a national training conference referred to as an "Academy" for directors of onsite wastewater training centers and selected trainers March 4 - 6, 1999, in Weslaco, Texas. Site of the conference will be the South Texas International Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training Center in Weslaco, a small community near Harlingen and McAllen in Southeast Texas. The invitation-only training academy aims to help training center directors, staff, and their training partners develop the best possible onsite training programs. NETCSC will contribute toward travel expenses for Center or program directors where need is justified. For more information, contact Betty B. Ford on (202) 260-8510.

REGULATIONS AT WORK

Proposed Rule on Electronic Reporting in the NPDES Program

EPA is proposing changes to its NPDES regulations to allow reports and other information to be submitted electronically. When EPA promulgated the current NPDES regulations, the Agency did not anticipate the need for electronic reporting. Consequently, the current regulations do not specifically address use of electronic reporting technologies. The proposed rule would establish criteria for electronic reporting and a specific process and conditions for electronic reporting of discharge monitoring reports (DMR) to EPA. The proposal addresses electronic signature, certification, and record keeping requirements that permittees would follow when submitting forms to EPA electronically. A stakeholder draft is currently available. We expect to publish a proposed rule in March, 1999. For more information, contact Robin Danesi on (202) 260-2991.

Final Rule for NPDES Municipal Permit Application Forms and Regulatory Revisions

The current NPDES Permit Application regulations and forms would be revised to reflect amendments to the Clean Water Act and changes in program requirements and emphasis. This action would also develop a sewage sludge permit application form and revise permit application regulations to foster the issuance of permits implementing the Agency's standards for sludge use or disposal. The proposal was published in the Federal Register on December 6, 1995. Comment review is complete and we are expecting the final rule in March, 1999. For more information, contact Robin Danesi on (202) 260-2991.

Streamlining the General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution

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(Proposed Rulemaking #2040-AC58)

The proposal will streamline portions of the National Pretreatment Program (40 CFR 403) to reduce the burden from technical and administrative requirements that affect industrial users, Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), and Regional and State Control Authorities. OMB has completed its review of the draft proposal, and we anticipate sending the proposed rule to the Administrator for signature in March, 1999. For further information, contact Jeff Smith on (202) 260-5586.

Clean Water Action Plan Forest Roads Pilot Permitting Study

EPA, in consultation with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, is considering whether to revise Clean Water Act NPDES permit regulations relative to forest roads. Toward this goal, EPA is developing a pilot NPDES permitting program for forest roads on Forest Service sites. On February 19, EPA completed a draft copy of a research study on existing data concerning the impact of forest roads on water quality and Best Management Practices' effectiveness. EPA, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management plan to have completed review of this study by March 5, and a final version is expected March 26, 1999. This study will be used to develop the pilot program on Forest Service sites. For more information, contact Howard Rubin on (202) 260-2051.

OTHER INFORMATION

Biosolids

National Biosolids Partnership (NBP): EPA, the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA), and other stakeholders have formed the NBP to promote good management practices regardless of the use/disposal option chosen and public acceptance of beneficial use when that option has been selected. The NBP is focusing its initial efforts on the development of an environmental management system (EMS) that could be adopted by municipalities and their contractors to help assure responsible management of biosolids. An organization adopting an EMS pledges to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations and to adopt and follow other practices to address issues such as traffic, odors, noise, and dust that are not covered by EPA regulations. EPA is providing \$1.245 million, including the \$0.9 million "add-on" included in the FY-99 Appropriations Act, to the NBP through cooperative agreements. For additional information about the NBP, contact John Walker on (202) 260-7283; for additional information about the EMS, contact Jim Horne on (202) 260-5802.

Field Storage Guidance: EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a host of stakeholders have been developing guidance for the field storage of biosolids and manures. The current schedule calls for a "final draft" in June, 1999, and distribution of the printed copy at the annual conference of the Water Environment Federation to be held in New Orleans in October, 1999. For additional information, contact Pat Millner of USDA on (301) 504-8163.

Beneficial Use of Biosolids Awards Program: EPA is accepting nominations for regional and national awards for operating projects, technology development activities, research, and public acceptance activities. Nominations for all awards must be submitted to the appropriate EPA Regional Office. National awards will be presented at the annual conference of the Water Environment Federation to be held in New Orleans in October, 1999. Guidance for the 1999 awards program is available on the Internet (<http://www.epa.gov/owm/biogud.htm>) or by calling John Walker on (202) 260-7283.

Incident Response Team (IRT): This is a team of Headquarters and Regional experts that can react quickly to allegations of health, environmental, and other problems caused by biosolids. Sometimes the team simply reviews existing data; on other occasions the team performs detailed field investigations. Currently active IRT projects are:

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Colorado: The team is establishing “baseline” conditions prior to the discharge of pre-treated groundwater from beneath the Lowry landfill superfund site into the Denver Metro wastewater treatment facility. Also, the team has investigated the allegation that the deaths of dairy cows near Deer Trail, Colorado, was caused by the application of biosolids from Denver Metro. A draft report on both cases is expected by the end of March, 1999.

Georgia: The team is investigating the death of dairy cows on the Boyce and McElmurray farms allegedly caused by the land application of biosolids from the Augusta wastewater treatment facility on those farms. The investigation is just getting underway.

For more information, call Bob Bastian on (202) 260-7378 or Bob Brobst on (303) 312-6129.

Update on biosolids use and disposal options in use in the USA: Based on data from the 1996 annual reports filed pursuant to 40 CFR Part 503 and entered into OWM’s Biosolids Data Management System (BDMS), here is the breakdown of use/disposal options by numbers of facilities: 59% land apply, 9% incinerate, 7% use surface disposal, 17% use a municipal solid waste landfill, and 8% use a variety of other use/disposal options. Of the facilities land applying, 12% have Class A biosolids, 76% have Class B biosolids, and 12% did not provide sufficient information to make a determination as to the class of biosolids. Note the percentage figure are based numbers of facilities, not dry weight of biosolids. We’re anticipating that six Regions and 15 States will use the BDMS in some way to manage data from the 1998 reports that were to be submitted in February, 1999. For more information, contact Bob Brobst on (303) 312-6129.

Good Press! The Fall 1998 issue of *Pipeline* published by the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) at West Virginia University was devoted exclusively to managing biosolids in small communities. Readers were encouraged to reprint articles from that issue in local newspapers or include them in flyers, handouts, and educational presentations. The February, 1999 issue of *Pollution Engineering* contained an excellent article, entitled “Biosolids Initiatives Promote Beneficial Reuse,” that discusses the efforts of EPA’s Biosolids Program Implementation Team and the National Biosolids Partnership to promote the sound management of biosolids, including beneficial use. Contacts: NSFC - (800) 624-8301; *Pollution Engineering* - (800) 800-323-4958; EPA - Ed Gross (202) 260-7370.

Small Community Team Programs Reported in International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Newsletter

The current issue of ICMA’s newsletter SCAN overviews several grant programs managed by Small Underserved Communities Team members. SCAN carries thumb-nail summaries of the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC), the National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC), the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), and the Small Community Outreach and Education (SCORE) program. The newsletter’s next issue will highlight several other programs team members manage. SCAN is the newsletter put out by the Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN), an outreach program conducted by the ICMA with funding by EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. For more information, contact Betty B. Ford on (202) 260-8510.

National Drought Policy Commission

A meeting of the National Drought Policy Commission's Interagency Contacts Group, of which EPA is a member, was held on February 19, 1999. The Contacts Group will participate on working groups that analyze drought-related issues for the Commission and review Commission work products. This meeting involved a discussion of the workgroups and compile background information for the Commission's first meeting. Gary Hudiburgh substituted for John Flowers at this meeting. For more information, contact John Flowers on (202) 260-7288.

Availability of Guidance for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Monitoring and Modeling

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The “Combined Sewer Overflow Guidance for Monitoring and Modeling”, EPA 832-B-99-002, will be available later this month. This manual explains the role of monitoring and modeling in the development of a CSO control program. It expands the discussions of monitoring and modeling that were included in the EPA’s 1994 CSO Control Policy and presents examples of data collection and combined sewer system (CSS) simulations. It is not a “how-to” manual defining how many samples to collect or which flow metering technology to use. The manual is a set of guidelines that provides flexibility for a municipality to develop a site-specific strategy for characterizing its CSS operation and impacts and for developing and implementing a comprehensive CSO control plan. For more information, contact Tim Dwyer at 202-260-6064.

Publication of Guidance on Discharge Monitoring and Reporting for Storm Water Industrial Permittees

The AGuidance Manual for the Monitoring and Reporting Requirements of the NPDES Storm Water Multi-Sector General Permit, @ EPA 833-B-99-001, is now available. This publication describes the storm water discharge monitoring requirements (visual, analytic and compliance) and analytic monitoring reports required of certain industrial sectors covered by the Multi-Sector General Permit. It will be available on the OWM website and through the OW Resources Center. For more information, contact Bryan Rittenhouse on (202) 260-0592.

CWA 104(g)(1) Operator Assistance and Training Activities

The end of year information from the Regional Office 104(g)(1) Coordinators has been received and compiled into report form. The 104(g)(1) Program assisted 999 wastewater treatment plants in fiscal year 1998. These plants were aided to achieve compliance, maintain compliance, or improve performance at the plant site. The 104(g)(1) Program accomplishment report shall be published, and distributed to the public as appropriate, as well as being posted on the Internet under epa.gov/owm/tomm.htm. For more information, contact Curt Baranowski on (202) 260-5806.

CWSRF FY 2000 Nonpoint Source and Estuary Management Grant Proposal

The Administration is authorizing the use of up to 20% of FY 2000 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Capitalization Grants for use as grants, instead of loans, for nonpoint source and estuary projects. The entire allotment of the CWSRF appropriation will be provided to States and Puerto Rico as CWSRF capitalization grants. The CWSRFs may chose to use an amount equal to 20% of their capitalization grants from FY 2000 funds as grants from the CWSRF. Although the grant is limited to 20% of the Federal capitalization grants, the actual funds used to make the grants may come from previous loan repayments, interest earnings, bond proceeds, state match, as well as the Federal grant. If the State chooses to make grants with repayments, interest earnings or bond proceeds, the other Federal requirements applicable to the CWSRF program (cross-cutters) would not apply. This simplifies the use of these funds for small organizations and private land owners, who may find these requirements a deterrent to accepting funding. For more information, contact Stephanie vonFeck at (202) 260-9762, or download the recently developed fact sheet detailing the proposal (<http://www.epa.gov/owm/2kgtrfct.htm>).

END OF REPORT